

(2) THE DECLINE OF THE
BIRTH-RATE
AMON& JEWS
NON-JEWS IN
MODERN TIMES

The decline in the birth-rate is not limited to the Jews, During the last one hundred years, with every European nation the curve of its birth-rate remained more or less stationary at first, but subsequently showed a marked downward trend. The turning-point was reached first by the most advanced nations: by France during the decade of 1811 to 1820; by Great Britain, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, and Germany, between 1870 and 1880; by the Balkan States and Portugal, after 1900; by other nations, only since the War; by the Jews of Western and Central Europe between 1860 and 1870, and of Eastern Europe between 1890 and 1900. With the Oriental Jews the turning-point has not been reached even now, but their high birth-rate is balanced by a high death-rate.

The best example of the declining Jewish birth-rate is supplied by Prussia,¹ where —

During 1822-40 it
amounted to 35*5
per thousand.
1841-66

	34-7	
1878-82		30-0
1888-92		23-7
1898-1902		19-7
1913		15*0
1924		14-6
1926		12-0
1928		10-5
1929		9-1

Thus in 1929 the birth-rate was less than one-third of what it had been fifty years earlier. By the end of the century

¹ In calculating the birth-rate, death-rate, and that of the natural increase, I refer the absolute figures for each year to those of the population enumerated at the preceding census, and not to the estimates of the population for that particular year, because such estimates are inaccurate especially with regard to the Jews; and having to choose between two methods, neither free of error, I preferred the former.